THE HUMAN TORCH
COMICS
MAY
NO.
30
10¢
YOU HAVE JUST ONE MINUTE TO TELL US WHERE THE HUMAN TORCH IS! "THE STRANGLER" IS GETTING IMPATIENT!
NO! NO! I'LL NEVER GIVE TORCH AWAY! NEVER!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WAIT ANYMORE! HERE I AM!

THE HUMAN TORCH
"GAY NINETIES GAMBLE!"
BRIGHT LIGHTS! TINSEL AND PAINTED FACES! ALL A PART OF THE GAY LIFE OF THE THEATRE! BUT AS MUCH A PART OF THAT LIFE IS THE HEARTBREAK—THE MILLION TEARS SHED! THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO FIND THEMSELVES CONFRONTED WITH THE SADNESS AND TRAGEDY OF BACKSTAGE LIFE AS THEY FIGHT TO BRING MASKED BANDITS TO JUSTICE!
2182

FOR THE OLD, THERE IS OFTEN LITTLE BUT MEMORIES...
AND FOR SARAH HELDBURN, ONCE RULING QUEEN OF THE THEATRE, MEMORIES ARE SO MUCH BRIGHTER THAN DRAB REALITY...
AH, THOSE WERE THE DAYS — WHEN BRADFORD MACLAIN AND I WERE THE TOAST OF NEW YORK!
SUDDENLY!
LOOK OUT!
TORCH! FLAME ON!
WITH ARMS ONLY UNFLAMED, TORCH AND TORO BLAZE TO THE RESCUE!
WHOAAAA!
A CLOSE CALL! BUT YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
DEAR ME! I DIDN'T LOOK WHERE I WAS GOING!
I GUESS OLD PEOPLE LIKE ME TEND TO GET A LITTLE CARELESS/ THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!
SARAH!
I WAS JUST COMING FOR YOU! I SAW WHAT HAPPENED! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I'M FINE, THANK YOU, ELISE! THESE TWO GENTLEMEN SAVED ME FROM WHAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN A NASTY ACCIDENT!

GOSH! THAT GIRL, ELISE, CERTAINLY IS PRETTY!
YES - BUT DID YOU RECOGNIZE THE OLD LADY? *NEW* NAME IS SARAH HELOBURN!

MANY YEARS AGO, SHE WAS THE REIGNING IDOL OF THE THEATRE! SHE LOOKS PRETTY SHABBY NOW!
TIME PLAYS STRANGE TRICKS, TORCH! SOME PEOPLE GET THE BREAKS, AND OTHERS DON'T!

BUT AT THIS MOMENT, IN WILLIE FLOWER'S SUMPTUOUS OFFICE...
YOU COULDN'T BUY ME OUT FOR A MILLION BUCKS, PHIL BRADY! SURE, I'VE HAD A COUPLA BAD YEARS, BUT I'M MAKING A COMEBACK - SEE?
WHAT ARE YOU USING FOR READY CASH, WILLIE - CIGAR COUPONS?

NO CRACKS, BRADY! I'VE SCRAPED UP ENOUGH DOUGH TO FINANCE A NEW NIGHT CLUB! AND I'VE GOT A SENSATIONAL IDEA! I'M BRINGING BACK THE GAY NINETIES!

ONLY I'M ADDING A *NEW* TWIST! MODERN ENTERTAINERS TOO! A CONTRAST WITH THE OLD-TIME STARS... AND LET THE PUBLIC TAKE ITS PICK!
DOESN'T SOUND BAD, WILLIE!

BUT YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE NOT TO SNAP UP MY OFFER FOR YOUR PROPERTY! IF YOU STRIKE OUT *THIS* TIME, *YOU'RE THROUGH!*
I'VE BEEN ON THE ROPES BEFORE! BUT I ALWAYS COME BACK PUNCHING! YOU'LL SEE ME ON TOP AGAIN, BRADY!

GET ME TORCH AND TORO!
YES, MR. FLOWER!

LATER... GET THE PICTURE? I WANT YOU TO PICK OUT THE OLD DAME AND THE UNKNOWN, NEW ENTERTAINER WHO'LL BE FEATURED IN MY SHOW!
HMM! I THINK I KNOW JUST THE RIGHT PERSON FOR ONE OF THOSE JOBS!
WE'LL PLAY ALONG WITH YOU, WILLIE!
I KNEW YOU WOULD! THE PUBLIC WILL FLOCK TO SEE TALENT THAT WAS PERSONALLY PICKED BY THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO!
LATER, IN A SECOND-RATE THEATRICAL BOARDING HOUSE...
WILL YOU TAKE THE JOB, MISS HELDBURN?
ON ONE CONDITION! THAT MY YOUNG FRIEND, ELISE, BE GIVEN HER CHANCE, TOO!
ELISE IS A VERY TALENTED YOUNG SINGER! SHE'S SHARED MY BAD FORTUNE, AND NOW I WANT TO SHARE MY GOOD FORTUNE WITH HER!
YOU MUSTN'T LET ME STAND IN THE WAY!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, WILLIE FLOWER ASKED US TO FIND AN UNKNOWN YOUNG ENTERTAINER! SEEMS TO ME YOU'D FIT THE BILL PERFECTLY!
OHH! IT SOUNDS ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
OPENING NIGHT AT THE GAY MUSIQUE CLUB...
QUITE A CROWD, EH, TORCH?
ALL THE PUBLICITY GOT THE CLUB OFF TO A GOOD START! LET'S GO BACKSTAGE AND SEE HOW SARAH HELDBURN IS MAKING OUT!
Gay Musique
IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU! I'LL NEED A FEW FRIENDS IN THAT AUDIENCE! I'M SO NERVOUS!
STOP WORRYING, ELISE!
4

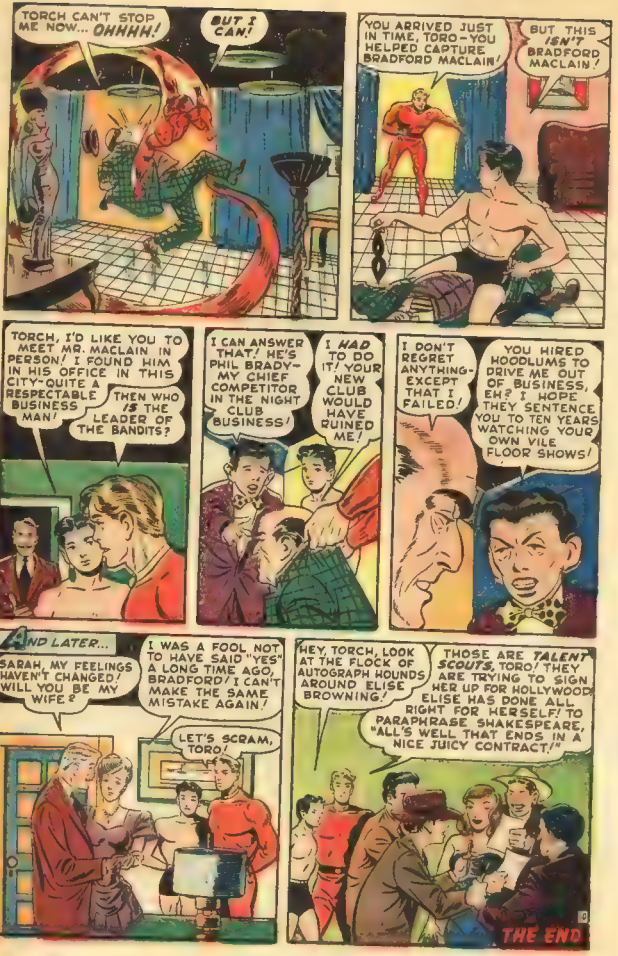
LADEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! THE GAY MUSIQUE CLUB PRESENTS THE GRAND OLD LADY OF THE STAGE, SARAH HELDBURN, AND HER YOUNG, BEAUTIFUL PROTEGEE ELISE BROWNING!
SUDDENLY!
DON'T MOVE, ANYONE— OR WE'LL SHOOT!
BANDITS!
YOUR NECKLACE, DEAR LADY! IT FAILS TO DO JUSTICE TO SUCH A LOVELY THROAT—SO I'LL TAKE IT!
TORO! THIS ISN'T AN ACT!
IT'S A REAL ROBBERY! LET'S GO!
YOU BOYS ARE 50 YEARS BEHIND YOUR TIME! SO WE'LL JUST KNOCK YOU BACK WHERE YOU BELONG!
THEN...
THIS MASTER SWITCH CONTROLS ALL THE LIGHTS! WE'LL ESCAPE UNDER COVER OF DARKNESS!
THE LIGHTS WENT OUT!
IF WE CAN'T SEE, WE'LL NEVER FIND THEM IN THIS CROWD!

MOMENTS LATER!
THERE! THE LIGHTS ARE ON! BUT THE BANDITS HAVE DISAPPEARED!
WE'D BETTER HAVE A TALK WITH WILLIE FLOWER!
THE BANDITS ROBBED MY OFFICE FIRST! I'M RUINED!
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO THE BANDITS COULD HAVE BEEN?
WHO CARES? I PAID A FORTUNE FOR TALENT, RADIO TIME, ALL THE FURNISHINGS IN THIS PLACE! I NEEDED TONIGHT'S RECEIPTS TO MAKE THE FIRST PAYMENT ON EVERYTHING I OWE!
I'M WIPED OUT! ME—WILLIE FLOWER, WASHED UP!
LET'S GO! WILLIE'S IN NO MOOD TO TALK TO US!
WHAT HAPPENED TO SARAH HELDBURN? I HAVEN'T SEEN HER SINCE THE ROBBERY!
SHE WENT HOME IMMEDIATELY! SHE WAS VERY UPSET!
I GUESS THIS OPENING MEANT MORE TO HER THAN I REALIZED! IT WAS HER BIG CHANCE AFTER SO MANY YEARS OF POVERTY AND NEGLECT!
IT WAS ELISE'S BIG CHANCE, TOO! BUT SHE'S TOO UNSELFISH TO THINK OF HERSELF! SHE'S A GRAND GIRL!
SOON, IN SARAH HELDBURN'S ROOM, TORCH AND TORO HEAR A STRANGE STORY...
I LEFT THE CLUB BECAUSE I WAS AFRAID I WOULD BE QUESTIONED! YOU SEE... I THINK I KNOW WHO THE BANDIT LEADER IS!
THEN IT'S YOUR DUTY TO TELL US!
6

YES, I REALIZE THAT NOW! YEARS AGO, WHEN I WAS A GREAT STAR, THERE WAS AN ACTOR WHO PLAYED OPPOSITE ME! HIS NAME WAS BRADFORD MACLAIN...
"BRADFORD WAS MADLY IN LOVE WITH ME! HE KEPT ASKING ME TO MARRY HIM!"
SARAH, SAY YOU'LL BE MY WIFE!
"BUT THE SOUND OF APPLAUSE WAS ALWAYS ECHOING IN MY EARS! BRADFORD DEMANDED THAT I GIVE UP MY CAREER, AND I COULDN'T DO THAT FOR ANY MAN!"
HURRAH!
BRAVO!
FINALLY, BRADFORD MACLAIN DISAPPEARED! BUT BEFORE HE WENT AWAY, HE VOWED HE WOULD DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO SEE THAT MY CAREER NEVER BROUGHT ME HAPPINESS!
YOU THINK HE RETURNED TO KEEP HIS VOW?
HE WOULDN'T FORGET, BRADFORD MACLAIN WAS A HEADSTRONG MAN!
HE WOULD DO IT, TO REMIND ME OF EVERYTHING I MISSED! HE WAS SO RIGHT! MY CAREER NEVER DID BRING ME HAPPINESS!
HMMM! YOU MAY HAVE GIVEN US A VALUABLE CLUE!
FIND BRADFORD MACLAIN, TORO! START WITH THE FILES AT THE NEWSPAPER MORGUE! THEN CHECK EVERYONE WHO KNEW HIM!
OKAY, TORCH!
7

MEANWHILE, I'M GOING TO MAKE SURE SARAH HELDBURN GETS ANOTHER CHANCE! THE GAY MUSIQUE CLUB WILL GIVE ANOTHER SHOW TOMORROW NIGHT!
THE NEXT MORNING, AT THE LOCAL BANK...
YOU ADVANCED THE MONEY TO OPEN THE GAY MUSIQUE CLUB! DON'T FORECLOSE ON THE PROPERTY, AND I'LL GUARANTEE YOU GET YOUR MONEY BACK!
I'LL GIVE YOU A TWENTY-FOUR HOUR EXTENSION! THAT'S THE BEST I CAN DO!
WHEAT
XCHANGE
BANK
A HASTILY CALLED GATHERING OF THE ENTERTAINERS...
WILLIE FLOWER HAS ALWAYS PLAYED FAIR WITH YOU! IF YOU'LL PUT ON THIS SHOW TONIGHT, FREE—YOU WILL ALL HAVE STEADY JOBS! HOW ABOUT IT?
WE'RE GAME, TORCH! WHAT CAN WE LOSE?
WE'LL NEED ADVERTISING TO LET THE PUBLIC KNOW THE GAY MUSIQUE IS STILL OPEN! I CAN TAKE CARE OF THAT, PERSONALLY!
LATER THAT DAY...
LOOK!
IT'S THE HUMAN TORCH! HE'S WRITING SOME KIND OF A MESSAGE!
GAY MUSIQUE OPENS TONIGHT DON'T MISS IT!
THAT NIGHT—A SELL-OUT AT THE GAY MUSIQUE CLUB!
I'VE GOT ENOUGH DOUGH IN THE TILL TO PAY OFF MY CREDITORS ALREADY! I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS, TORCH!
THE SHOW'S READY TO START! LET'S GO IN!
CHECK ROOM

WE'VE OLD SONGS AND NEW SONGS, SWEET WALTZES AND BLUE SONGS!
THEY'RE TERRIFIC! THEY CAN'T MISS!
THEN... SORRY TO INTERRUPT THE ACT! BUT WE'RE DOING AN ENCORE!
I'D BEEN HOPING YOU'D SHOW UP AGAIN!
TORCH!
LAY THAT HORSE PISTOL DOWN! IT WON'T HELP YOU!
OHHH!
DON'T RUN AWAY! YOU'LL GET ALL OUT OF BREATH!
OOOOOOF!
TRY THE WATER CURE, TORCH!
AS HIS FLAME GOES OUT, TORCH PLUNGES IN HEADLONG FLIGHT AGAINST THE WALL!
CRASH!
UGHHHH!
9


TORCH CAN'T STOP ME NOW... OHHHH!
BUT I CAN!
YOU ARRIVED JUST IN TIME, TORO—YOU HELPED CAPTURE BRADFORD MACLAIN!
BUT THIS ISN'T BRADFORD MACLAIN!
TORCH, I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MR. MACLAIN IN PERSON! I FOUND HIM IN HIS OFFICE IN THIS CITY—QUITE A RESPECTABLE BUSINESS MAN!
THEN WHO IS THE LEADER OF THE BANDITS?
I CAN ANSWER THAT! HE'S PHIL BRADY—MY CHIEF COMPETITOR IN THE NIGHT CLUB BUSINESS!
I HAD TO DO IT! YOUR NEW CLUB WOULD HAVE RUINED ME!
I DON'T REGRET ANYTHING—EXCEPT THAT I FAILED!
YOU HIRED HOODLUMS TO DRIVE ME OUT OF BUSINESS, EH? I HOPE THEY SENTENCE YOU TO TEN YEARS WATCHING YOUR OWN VILE FLOOR SHOWS!
AND LATER...
SARAH, MY FEELINGS HAVEN'T CHANGED! WILL YOU BE MY WIFE?
I WAS A FOOL NOT TO HAVE SAID "YES" A LONG TIME AGO, BRADFORD! I CAN'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN!
LET'S SCRAM, TORO!
HEY, TORCH, LOOK AT THE FLOCK OF AUTOGRAPH HOUNDS AROUND ELISE BROWNING!
THOSE ARE TALENT SCOUTS, TORO! THEY ARE TRYING TO SIGN HER UP FOR HOLLYWOOD! ELISE HAS DONE ALL RIGHT FOR HERSELF! TO PARAPHRASE SHAKESPEARE, "ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS IN A NICE JUICY CONTRACT!"
THE END

A MISTREATED URCHIN AND A CONSCIENTIOUS POLICEMAN PUT *SUB-MARINER* AND *NAMORA* ON THE TRAIL OF ONE OF THE CRUELEST AND MOST TREACHEROUS CRIMINALS EVER TO BE ENCOUNTERED BY THIS FAMOUS DUO, AS, FIGHTING AGAINST ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS, THEY STRIVE TO BRING TO JUSTICE...

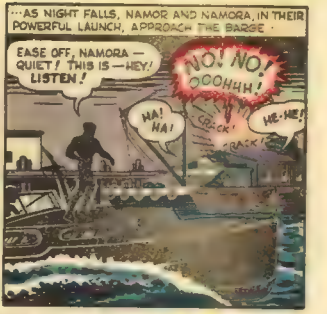
"THE *BEAST* OF THE BOWERY BARGE!"

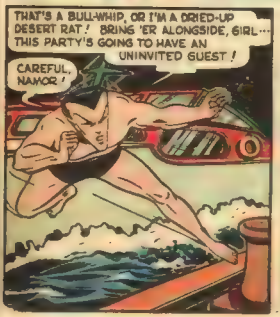
PAT DONOVAN, A CITY COP, HEARS SCREAMS FROM A DILAPIDATED HOUSE-BOAT BARGE ...
OH, NO! PLEASE! NO! NO! PLEASE DON'T! HELP! Y-Y-I-I-I-EOW!!!
WHAT TH —! SOUNDS LIKE A YOUNG GIRL!
OH, NO, YA DON'T, COPPER! NO FLATFOOT COMES ABOARD ME BARGE WIDOUT A SOICH WARRINT!
"BOWERY BENNIE"! I MIGHT'VE KNOWN!
WHAT'RE YE UP TO? WHAT'S GOIN' ON IN — ? HEY!
WHY, YA SNEAKIN' LIDDLE — !
OOOOH!
COME BACK HERE, JOSIE, YA — ! JES' WAIT'LL I GET ME HAN'S ON —!
HOLD IT, BENNIE! YE'RE NOT GOIN' ANYWHERE YET!
KEEP YER PUNY MITTS OFF ME, YA SLIMEY HARNESS-BULL! I'VE GOT ME RIGHTS!
SHUT UP, AN' STAY WHERE YE ARE, OR YE WON'T HAVE ANY RIGHTS! I'M GONNA GET THAT GIRL!
OH — HERE YE ARE! WHAT'S THE MATTER, HONEY? WAS THAT BIG BULLY WHIPPIN' YE? TELL OLD PAT ALL ABOUT IT!
GO AWAY! L-LEAVE ME ALONE!
2.

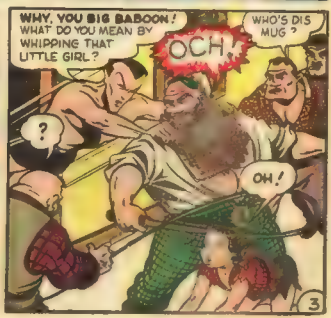
B-BUT I JUST WANT TO HELP YE, SWEETHEART! IF THAT BANSHEE'S TREATIN' YE MEAN, I'LL TAKE YE TO A MISSION HOME, AND TOSS HIM IN THE CLINK!
OH, NO! "BOWERY BENNIE" IS MY PA ··· I'D BETTER GO BACK! THANKS, BUT—G-O'BY!

WELL, WHAT D'YE KNOW ABOUT THAT??? SOMETHING'S FISHY, AND THE GIRL WON'T COOPERATE! ME, I CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT A FORMAL COMPLAINT ··· I'D BETTER SEE THE SUB-MARINER!
OOOOOO

MINUTES LATER, PAT EXPLAINS TO NAMOR ···
···SO, BEING A COP, I CAN'T BREAK THE LAW BY BUSTIN' IN ON HIM WITHOUT A WARRANT ··· WHAT'LL I DO?
I THINK WE CAN HANDLE IT, PAT. WHERE'S THE BARGE TIED UP?

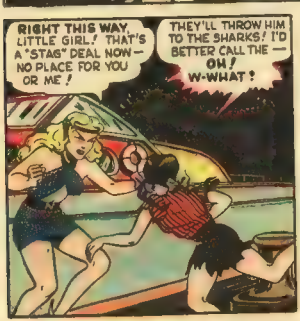

···AS NIGHT FALLS, NAMOR AND NAMORA, IN THEIR POWERFUL LAUNCH, APPROACH THE BARGE ·
EASE OFF, NAMORA — QUIET! THIS IS—HEY! LISTEN!
NO! NO! OOOHHH!
HA! HA!
CRACK!
HE-HE!
CRACK!


THAT'S A BULL-WHIP, OR I'M A DRIED-UP DESERT RAT! BRING 'ER ALONGSIDE, GIRL··· THIS PARTY'S GOING TO HAVE AN UNINVITED GUEST!
CAREFUL, NAMOR!


WHY, YOU BIG BABOON! WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY WHIPPING THAT LITTLE GIRL?
OCH!
WHO'S DIS MUG?
?
OH!

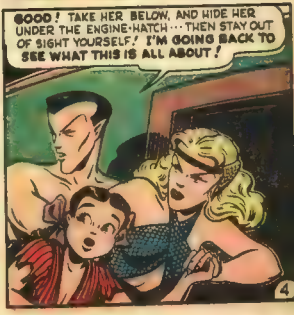
MOIDER DE BUM!
WHO'S HE T'INK HE IS, ANYHOW?
DIS IS A FAM'LY PARTY!
GIT 'IM, BOYS!

HE WON'T STAY DOWN! WHAT'S DE MATTER WID 'IM?
SLUG 'IM AGAIN, JOEY!
OH! THEY'LL KILL HIM! WHY DID HE HAVE TO COME HERE ALONE?


RIGHT THIS WAY, LITTLE GIRL! THAT'S A "STAG" DEAL NOW — NO PLACE FOR YOU OR ME!
THEY'LL THROW HIM TO THE SHARKS! I'D BETTER CALL THE —
OH! W-WHAT!

JOSIE! WHERE'D SHE GO?
YEAH! AND I'M GOING TO "FLEW" WHILE THE "FLEW-ING'S" GOOD!
SHE'S FLEW DE COOP!
DE LIDDLE BRAT!

HEY! DE BUM GOT AWAY!
LEAVE 'IM GO! HE WON'T BODDER US NO MORE! FIND DE BRAT! SHE'S HIDIN' SOMEPLACE!
NAMORA! IS JOSIE WITH YOU?


GOOD! TAKE HER BELOW, AND HIDE HER UNDER THE ENGINE-HATCH··· THEN STAY OUT OF SIGHT YOURSELF! I'M GOING BACK TO SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!
4

SHE AIN'T ON DE BARGE, POP!
WELL, LOOK SOMEWH— HEY! WHAT'S DIS LAUNCH DOIN' HERE? OH-HO! LOOK WHO'S ON DE DECK, BOYS! MAYBE HE KNOWS WHERE DE BRAT IS! GRAB 'IM!
OH-OH!

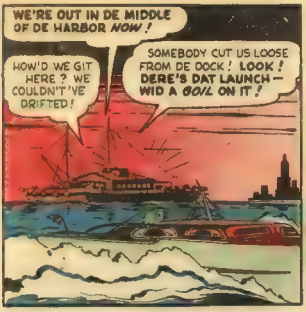
HE WON'T DROP! BUST HIS HEAD OPEN!
I GOT 'IM WID DE MARLINSPIKE!
HOOOOO!
KONK!

OH-OH! NOW YA DONE IT! YA KNOCKED 'IM COLD, AN' EVEN IF HE KNOWS WHERE JOSIE WENT, HE CAN'T TELL US TILL HE COMES TO! DRAG 'IM OVER TO DE BARGE, BOYS!

T'ROW 'IM IN DE CHAIN LOCKER 'TIL MORNIN'... NO USE LOOKIN' FER JOSIE NOW — SHE'LL COME BACK!
D'YA S'POSE DIS MUG'S A FLATFOOT, POP?

I DUNNO... BUT WE'LL TAKE 'IM OUT IN DE HARBOR AN' DUMP 'IM IN DE MORNIN'... HEH-HEH! HE'LL HAVE A LONG SWIM HOME!
LET'S TURN IN, POP... I'M SLEEPY! WAKE US AT FIVE, JOEY!

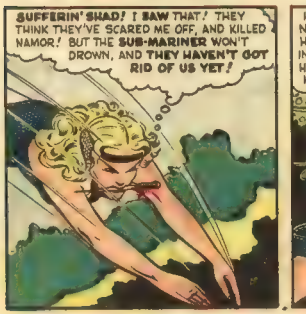
HOURS LATER, AS DAWN BREAKS...
OKAY, BLACKIE-PETE-POP... ROLL OUT! HEY! WHAT THE DEVIL? LOOK OUT THE WINDOW!
HUH?

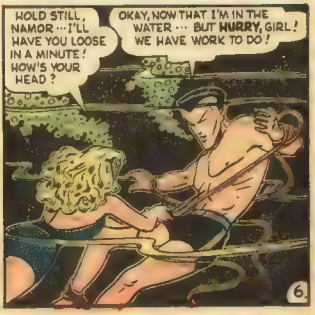

WE'RE OUT IN DE MIDDLE OF DE HARBOR NOW!
HOW'D WE GIT HERE? WE COULDN'T'VE DRIFTED!
SOMEBODY CUT US LOOSE FROM DE DOCK! LOOK! DERE'S DAT LAUNCH — WID A GOAL ON IT!

SHE MUSTA TOWED DE BARGE OUT HERE WHILE WE WAS SLEEPIN'! USE YER RODS, BOYS, AN' BUMP 'ER OFF! WE NEED DAT BOAT!
HEY! THEY'RE WISE TO ME! I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE!

NO USE, BOYS — SHE GOT OUTA RANGE! BUT WE'LL GIT EVEN! SHE MUST BE WOIKIN' WID' DIS MUG ··· HAUL 'IM OUT! TIE 'IS HANDS AN' FEET, AN' WEIGHT 'IM DOWN WID IRONS! WE'LL T'ROW DE BUM IN DE DRINK!
I'M WEAK ··· MY HEAD! ··· I CAN'T ···

OVER YA GO, WISE GUY!
YA'LL MAKE A POOR MEAL FER DE FISHES!


SUFFERIN' SHAD! I SAW THAT! THEY THINK THEY'VE SCARED ME OFF, AND KILLED NAMOR! BUT THE SUB-MARINER WON'T DROWN, AND THEY HAVEN'T GOT RID OF US YET!


HOLD STILL, NAMOR ··· I'LL HAVE YOU LOOSE IN A MINUTE! HOW'S YOUR HEAD?
OKAY, NOW THAT I'M IN THE WATER ··· BUT HURRY, GIRL! WE HAVE WORK TO DO!

FIRST, WE'LL OPEN THE SEA-COCKS, OR 'SCUTTLE-VALVES', IN THE BOTTOM OF THIS TUB, TO FLOOD THE HOLDS!
THEN GET BACK TO THE LAUNCH TO WATCH THE FUN, EH?
WHAT TH—@*%?!/ DE BARGE'S SINKIN'! ABANDON SHIP!!!
HELP! I'M STUCK!
NO TIME TO LOWER THE BOAT! OVER THE SIDE, BOYS!
GOOD! THEY ALL GOT OFF! HERE THEY COME, NAMORA—RIGHT INTO OUR TRAP! IS JOSIE SAFELY OUT OF THE WAY?
SHE'S HIDING IN THE CABIN...
ONE—TWO—THREE—FOUR! SWEET DREAMS, KIDDIES! HEAD FOR SHORE, NAMORA... WE'LL TURN THESE JOKERS OVER TO THE POLICE ON SUSPICION!
KONK!
LATER...
YA GOT NUTTIN' ON US, YA BUMS!
OKAY, JOSIE - LET'S HEAR THE WHOLE STORY! YOU'RE SAFE NOW!
OH GOSH, SUB-MARINER! MY BROTHERS ARE ALL CROOKS, I'M AFRAID!
"THEY HELD UP TWO STORES THE OTHER NIGHT..."
I JES' CROAKED YER BUDDY FER SCREAMIN' — NOW SHUDDUP!
AH, LET 'IM HAVE IT, TOO, JOEY — WE GOT DE DOUGH!
7

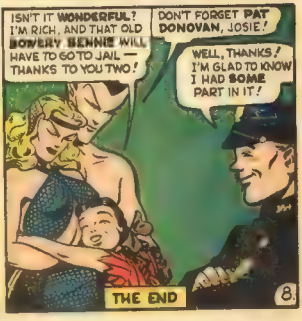
"...AND JUST LAST WEEK, THEY ROBBED THE STATE RESERVE BANK, AND KILLED A TELLER!"
NO!
HE REACHED FOR DE BOIGLER ALARM!
DROP 'IM!

THEY'D COME HOME AND BRAG ABOUT IT, AND WHIP ME SO I WOULDN'T TELL THE POLICE! I HATE THEM ALL, AND I'LL TELL EVERYTHING IN COURT, IF YOU WANT ME TO!
LOOKS LIKE THE JIG'S UP, BENNIE! WANT TO CONFESS?

OKAY··· OKAY! WE WASN'T GETTIN' RICH, NOHOW··· GUESS I'M TOO OLD FOR DE BIG-TIME! DE BOYS DID DE KILLIN', BUT I PLANNED DE JOBS, SO I GUESS I'M GUILTY, TOO! BUT JOSIE'S INNOCENT··· SHE AIN'T EVEN ME DAUGHTER! I PICKED HER UP ON A RAFT WHEN DE "ARGUS" WENT DOWN TEN YEARS AGO!

SHE WAS TWO··· I WAS GONNA HOLD 'ER FER RANSOM, BUT I FOUND OUT HER PARENTS WENT DOWN WID DE SHIP! NAME'S WARD··· YA KIN CHECK ON IT!
QUICK, NAMORA! GET AN "ARGUS" COMPANY AGENT DOWN HERE WITH A PASSENGER LIST!

THIRTY MINUTES LATER···
THE MAN'S RIGHT, SUB-MARINER! THIS GIRL MUST BE THE DAUGHTER OF HENRY WARD··· HE LEFT A CONSIDERABLE FORTUNE!
OH GEE!


ISN'T IT WONDERFUL? I'M RICH, AND THAT OLD BOWERY BENNIE WILL HAVE TO GO TO JAIL — THANKS TO YOU TWO!
DON'T FORGET PAT DONOVAN, JOSIE!
WELL, THANKS! I'M GLAD TO KNOW I HAD SOME PART IN IT!
THE END

HUMAN TORCH BRAIN TEASERS

DON'T LET THESE PROBLEMS THROW YOU!

COUNTRIES & CAPITALS

IN THE FOLLOWING, EACH SENTENCE CONTAINS A CONCEALED COUNTRY AND ITS CAPITAL, AS "SPAIN A MARSH WITH A BRIDGE OF COLONIAL TYPE" CONTAINS THE COUNTRY "PANAMA" AND ITS CAPITAL "COLON". WHAT ARE THE OTHER COUNTRIES AND CITIES?

HOPE RUDELY SHATTERED, CAUSED HIS DOWNFALL, I MAINTAIN.

HE CALLED IT A LYNX. BUT THE GUIDE ON THE BURRO MENTIONED IT AS A WILDCAT.

HOW MUCH I LEARNED IN THESE MATTERS CONVERSANT, I, A GOOD CITIZEN, SHALL NEVER DISCLOSE.

FIND AT LEAST 15 DIFFERENT OBJECTS IN THIS PICTURE THAT BEGIN WITH THE LETTERS "SH"

? ? ?

A NAVAL GAME

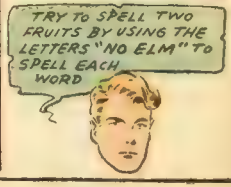
1	8	16	24	32	40	48	56
2	9	17	25	33	41	49	57
3	10	18	26	34	42	50	58
4	11	19	27	35	43	51	59
5	12	20	28	36	44	52	60
6	13	21	29	37	45	53	61
7	14	22	30	38	46	54	62
8	15	23	31	39	47	55	63

THE SIXTY-THREE NUMBERED CIRCLES REPRESENT A FLEET OF ENEMY DESTROYERS. THE COMMANDER OF THE SUBMARINE, MARKED "A", WANTS TO SINK ALL OF THE SIXTY-THREE SHIPS BY TAKING ONE CONTINUOUS ROUTE TO ENCOUNTER THEM.

TO WIN THE GAME YOU MUST DRAW ONE CONTINUOUS LINE, CONTAINING NOT MORE THAN FOURTEEN STRAIGHT STROKES STARTING AT CIRCLE "A" AND RETURNING TO CIRCLE "A" AGAIN AT THE LAST STROKE, THUS PASSING THROUGH ALL OF THE BOATS.

USE ONLY THE GIVEN LETTERS, AS MANY TIMES AS YOU WISH, TO SEE IF YOU CAN SPELL AT LEAST TEN WORDS THAT WILL MEAN SOMETHING SMALL.

A D E F G I L M N P
R T U V W Y



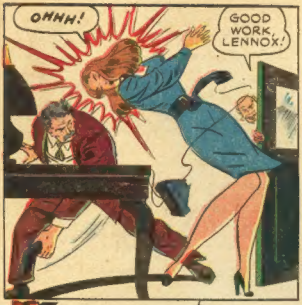
THE HUMAN TORCH
HE CALLED HIMSELF THE HYENA! AND LIKE THE BEAST OF THE SAME NAME, HE ROBBED ONLY FROM THE DEAD, UNTIL A BRAVE GIRL DEFIED HIS POWER, AND WITH THE AID OF THE HUMAN TORCH AND TORO SILENCED THE TRIUMPHANT, QUAVERING LAUGH OF THE HYENA, IN...
"The HYENA STRIKES!"

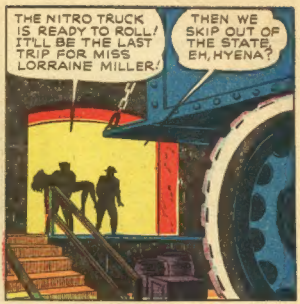
FROM A LONELY MOUNTAIN ROAD ECHOES THE GLOATING LAUGH OF... THE HYENA!
YAA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
I DON'T GET IT, HYENA! WHY ARE YOU PAINTING A NEW WHITE STRIPE LEADING OFF THE ROAD?
THE CENTER STRIPE IS WHAT TRUCK DRIVERS FOLLOW AT NIGHT! THAT'S HOW THEY CAN "SEE" IN THE DARK!
ONLY THIS TIME THE MARKING WON'T HELP THEM KEEP TO THE CENTER OF THE ROAD! IT'LL LEAD THEM OFF INTO THE CHASM! HERE COMES THE TRUCK NOW!
EYES GLUED TO THE CENTER STRIPE, THE DRIVER OF THE TRUCK PLUNGES STRAIGHT TO DESTRUCTION!
YA-A-HA-HA-HA
THERE IT IS, MEN! A TRUCK FULL OF VALUABLES! RIPE FOR THE PLUNDER!
YOU'RE A SMART GUY, HYENA!
TO LORRAINE MILLER, THE HYENA'S SUCCESS BRINGS TRAGIC NEWS...
YOUR FATHER WAS DRIVING THE TRUCK THAT CRASHED, MISS MILLER!
HE'S DEAD NOW! BUT HE'D WANT ME TO CARRY ON IN HIS PLACE!
THE TRUCKING BUSINESS IS NO GAME FOR A GIRL! AS MANAGER OF THE LINE, I ADVISE YOU TO SELL OUT!
I'M THE OWNER, MR. LENNOX, NOW THAT MY FATHER'S GONE! I'VE MADE UP MY MIND NOT TO SELL!
2

MEANWHILE, IN THE APARTMENT SHARED BY TORCH AND TORO...
ANOTHER CRASH ON THE MILLER TRUCKING LINE! THAT MAKES FOUR CRASHES IN THE PAST THREE MONTHS!
THIS ONE COST THE OWNER HIS LIFE!
THIS MUST BE MORE THAN A COINCIDENCE! I THINK WE OUGHT TO INVESTIGATE, TORO!
AND I SECOND THE MOTION! THINGS HAVE BEEN TOO DULL AROUND HERE LATELY!
LET'S GO! OUR FIRST STOP IS THE MAIN DEPOT OF THE MILLER TRUCKING LINE!
Later...
I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER OF HELP! BUT I'VE TAKEN PRECAUTIONS! EVERY TRUCK THAT LEAVES HERE IS NOW EQUIPPED WITH A TWO-WAY RADIO SET!
GOOD! THEN THE DRIVER CAN TELL YOU IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG ON HIS TRIP!
AT THAT MOMENT, THE HYENA PREPARES TO STRIKE AGAIN!
ANOTHER TRUCK HEADED THIS WAY! TWIST THAT WHEEL!
MILLER TRUCKING
AGHHHH!
YAA-HA-HA-HA!
THE FOOL SAW THE REFLECTION OF HIS OWN HEADLIGHTS IN THE MIRROR I PLANTED HERE! HE THOUGHT IT WAS ANOTHER TRUCK GOING TO COLLIDE WITH HIM!
YAA-HA-HA!
9

BUT INSIDE THE TRUCK...
ACCIDENT... ON NORTH ROAD! THOUGHT I SAW... ANOTHER TRUCK... BUT...
I... AGHMH!
TROUBLE! WE'D BETTER GET OUT THERE RIGHT AWAY!
GO AHEAD! I'LL FOLLOW YOU IN ONE OF OUR REPAIR CARS!
ANOTHER ACCIDENT! IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE!
WE'LL SOON KNOW, TORCH!
TORCH! THOSE MEN ARE LOOTING THE TRUCK!
HIJACKERS! THAT'S THE ANSWER, TORO!
THEY DELIBERATELY WRECKED THE TRUCK, AND THAT MIRROR EXPLAINS HOW THEY DID IT!
YOU WON'T PULL ANY MORE TRICKS!
EEOWW! I'M ON FIRE!
YAA-HA-HA! THEY WON'T CATCH THE HYENA!
4

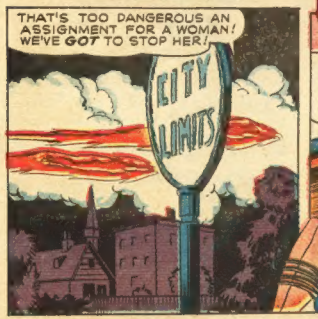
THE LEADER'S GETTING AWAY!
WAIT, TORO!
I HEAR ANOTHER VEHICLE! THE DRIVER WILL SMASH UP WITH THIS WRECKED TRUCK IN THE WAY!
...UNLESS WE CAN STOP HIM! HALT!
IT'S THE REPAIR TRUCK, WITH MISS MILLER!
YOU NEARLY SHARED THE FATE OF YOUR DRIVER, MISS MILLER! HIS TRUCK WAS DELIBERATELY WRECKED!
THEN HE-HE'S DEAD? I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT HAPPENED! HE WAS TRAVELING A NEW, SECRET ROUTE!
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY TRUCK WAS HEADED THIS WAY?
THE HYENA TOLD US! HE KNOWS EVERYTHING!
LATER, WHEN LORRAINE MILLER RETURNS TO THE DEPOT...
MR. LENNOX, NO ONE KNOWS OUR TRUCKING SCHEDULES, BUT YOU AND I! YET, INFORMATION HAS REACHED A MAN CALLED THE HYENA!
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME, MISS MILLER?
SOMEONE'S TO BLAME! I'M GOING TO CALL THE POLICE AND LET THEM FIND OUT WHO'S GUILTY!
5


OHHH!
GOOD WORK, LENNOX!


THE NITRO TRUCK IS READY TO ROLL! IT'LL BE THE LAST TRIP FOR MISS LORRAINE MILLER!
THEN WE SKIP OUT OF THE STATE, EH, HYENA?

MOMENTS LATER...
YOU WANT MISS MILLER? I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO HER! SHE WAS TALKING TO LENNOX, THE MANAGER, A LITTLE WHILE AGO!
HMMM! I SAW A TRUCK LEAVING AS WE CAME UP!

THAT TRUCK IS LOADED WITH NITRO-GLYCERIN! IT WAS WAITING FOR A SPECIAL DRIVER TO ARRIVE...
I'LL BET LORRAINE MILLER IS DRIVING IT HERSELF!


THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS AN ASSIGNMENT FOR A WOMAN! WE'VE GOT TO STOP HER!
CITY LIMITS

LITTLE DOES TORCH SUSPECT THE ACTUAL DANGER IN WHICH LORRAINE MILLER FINDS HERSELF!
LENNOX! THEN YOU AND THE HYENA WERE WORKING TOGETHER?
YES! I WAS HIJACKING YOUR TRUCKS AFTER LENNOX PASSED ON INFORMATION ABOUT THE CARGO TO ME!

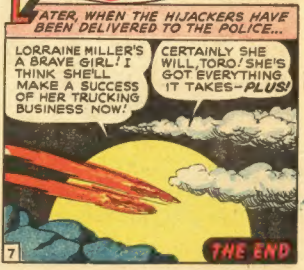
WE'LL LEAVE YOU HERE! TRY DRIVING IT YOURSELF! YAA-HA-HA!

THE TORCH!

GET THEM, TORO! I'M GOING AFTER THAT TRUCK! I HOPE I'M NOT TOO LATE! IT JUST JUMPED THE ROAD AT THE CURVE!

BUT YOU'RE SAFE, MISS MILLER!

TORO HAD NO TROUBLE WITH OUR HIJACKING FRIEND!
IN THE END, THE HYENA PROVED AS COWARDLY AS HIS NAMESAKE! HE STARTED BEGGING FOR MERCY AS SOON AS I HIT HIM! LENNOX WAS THE SAME!


LATER, WHEN THE HIJACKERS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE POLICE...
LORRAINE MILLER'S A BRAVE GIRL! I THINK SHE'LL MAKE A SUCCESS OF HER TRUCKING BUSINESS NOW!
CERTAINLY SHE WILL, TORO! SHE'S GOT EVERYTHING IT TAKES—PLUS!
THE END

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